

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 and a revised abstract are submitted in this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants note that the instant Application is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 10/794,942, filed on March 5, 2004 (the "Parent Application"). Applicants have not yet received an Office Action for the instant Application or for the Parent Application. However, for the purpose of streamlining prosecution, Applicants at this time intend to prosecute the instant Application rather than the Parent Application, but reserve their right to prosecute the claims of the Parent Application. For the sake of clarity and convenience for the Examiner, Applicants now will summarize the current status of the claims in the instant Application as compared to the claims still pending in the Parent Application and to the claims as originally filed in the instant Application.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to reflect the language of the corresponding claim in the Parent Application, i.e. independent Claim 14 of the Parent Application, with the limitation that has been removed from Claim 1 now being recited in new dependent Claim 21. Claim 2 has been amended to reflect its dependency on new Claim 21. Claims 3-15 and 17-20 remain the same as originally filed in the instant Application, and of these, Claims 3-4, 7-8, 10-13, 15 and 17-20 correspond to Claims 15-27 as originally filed and currently pending in the Parent Application. Claim 16 has been amended to reflect proper antecedent basis. Claims 22-34 are newly added to the instant Application, but correspond to the recitation of Claims 1-13 of the Parent Application. The abstract of the instant Application has been amended to reflect the recitation of the abstract of the Parent Application.

By amending the claims of the instant Application to include the recitation of claims in the Parent Application, Applicants have streamlined prosecution. For this reason, and since the

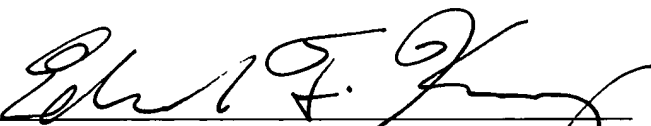
Preliminary Amendment has been filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action for the instant Application, Applicants respectfully request entry of the Preliminary Amendment.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit allowance thereof at an early date.



Respectfully submitted,

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